

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

A281.12
Ag88

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



BOOK NUMBER

A281.12
AgSS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Summary of Drought Relief Programs, 1932 -- 1952

1934 Drought

This drought severely affected 1,187 counties in 27 States, reducing national agricultural production about one-third. Special programs conducted to provide relief were as follows:

Under a livestock purchase program, about 12 million animals were bought at a cost of approximately \$120 million. Most of these were slaughtered and the meat distributed to needy families through the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

A feed and forage program encouraged the conservation and production of feed and directed the distribution of available feed supplies.

Extensive freight rate reductions for livestock and feed were obtained.

A seed program resulted in the purchase and sale for seed of about 12 million bushels of adapted varieties of grain.

Farm credit and rehabilitation programs assisted farmers having difficulties due to the drought. Under a special drought-relief loan program of the Farm Credit Administration a total of \$72 million was loaned, chiefly for caring for livestock.

1936 Drought

This drought severely affected 1,194 counties in 25 States, reducing national agricultural production about one-fourth. Special programs conducted to provide relief were as follows:

Under a livestock purchase program it was necessary to buy only 3,700 animals because (1) livestock numbers were nearly in balance with feed supplies and with market requirements, and (2) rains arrived in the early fall.

A feed and forage program encouraged the production of feed and facilitated the distribution of feed and livestock in drought areas.

Extensive freight rate reductions for livestock and feed were obtained.

A seed-grain purchase program resulted in the purchase and sale for seed of about 1.3 million bushels of small grain.

A seed-corn loan program for farm-stored seed corn helped guard against a shortage of adaptable varieties.

Under a breeding sheep program, over 14,000 high-grade sheep were purchased and later sold in other areas where feed supplies were more adequate.

Emergency wind erosion control practices were encouraged through payments totaling about \$800,000 under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Surplus food and feed distribution in drought areas totaled 55 million pounds of food and 15 million pounds of feed.

Credit programs of the Farm Credit Administration and the Resettlement Administration assisted farmers having difficulties due to the drought.

Other Years, 1932--1951

Lesser droughts than those of 1934 and 1936 occurred during the other years in the period 1932--1951. Measures undertaken by the Department for relief in these less severe droughts have been conducted within the existing resources. Generally, over the years, funds have been available for making loans to meet production emergencies occasioned by droughts and other natural disasters.

1952--1954 Drought

A severe drought, beginning in 1952 and recurring in 1953 and 1954, affected the Southwestern States and some States in the South, Midwest, and West. Special programs conducted to provide relief are described below.

Under a beef program meat equivalent to about 865,000 head of cattle was purchased during the calendar year 1953. Most of this beef went to school children as a part of the School Lunch Program. In addition, the Department cooperated with the food trades in a beef promotion campaign that was instrumental in increasing the consumption of beef.

Under an emergency feed program in the fiscal year 1954 about 42.9 million hundredweight of feeds owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation were sold to farmers at prices well below the market value. Losses on these sales totaled \$42.1 million and additional freight, distribution, and other costs amounted to \$29 million. Through November 26, 1954, in the 1955 fiscal year, purchase orders have been issued approving the sale to farmers through commercial channels of 18.7 million hundredweight of CCC surplus grains at prices from about 60 cents to one dollar below local market prices. As of November 26, 1954, the number of counties designated as drought disaster areas for emergency feed assistance totaled 937 in 18 States.

Under a hay distribution program in the fiscal year 1953 the Department procured and distributed hay in drought areas at prices averaging 70 percent of the cost and resulting in losses totaling \$8 million. In the fiscal year 1954 the Department made commitments totaling \$6.3 million under which advances totaling \$3.5 million were made to 12 States for paying half of the costs of transporting hay, up to \$10 a ton. Through November 26, 1954, in the fiscal year 1955, commitments have been made for similar advances of \$500,000 to each of 16 States.

Emergency wind erosion control measures were encouraged through allocations to 6 States of over \$13 million from a supplemental appropriation for this purpose under the 1954 Agricultural Conservation Program.

Credit programs of the Department assisted farmers having difficulties due to the drought. A heavy volume of production emergency lending was experienced in the fiscal year 1953 when loans totaled \$43 million. In the fiscal years 1954 and 1955 emergency loans, including newly authorized economic emergency loans and special livestock loans, were made as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955 (thru Nov.26)</u>
	<u>(Millions of dollars)</u>	
Production emergency	31.7	3.7
Economic emergency	26.2	4.4
Special livestock	<u>35.2</u>	<u>11.8</u>
Total	93.1	19.9

About 85 percent of these loans were made in 18 States in which drought disaster areas have been declared.

Expenditures

The more significant expenditures for special programs for drought relief are shown in the following tables:

Expenditures for Special Programs for Drought Relief,
1934 and 1936 Droughts a/

	Fiscal Years			
	1935	1936	1937	1938
	(Thousands of dollars)			
Emergency cattle and sheep buying program:				
Cattle purchases	112,236	48	106	--
Sheep and goat purchases	7,710	--	--	--
Administrative expenses	2,619	274	75	--
Total, emergency cattle and sheep buying program	122,565	322	181	--
Feed and forage program (encouraging conservation of feed and forage, directing movement of feed and forage from surplus to deficit areas through market channels, and purchase of corn stover, hay, and straw which was donated to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for distribution to relief clients)	183	62	31	--
Seed program (purchase of adapted varieties of seed wheat, oats, barley and flax for sale to farmers in drought areas)	18,159	2,351	303	207
Emergency wind erosion control practices under agricultural conservation program	--	--	--	793
Loans in stricken agricultural areas, principally loans for feeding livestock in the primary drought areas	72,009	--	--	--
Total, above items	212,916	2,735	515	1,000

a/ Does not include activities under agricultural adjustment, conservation, credit, relief, and other going programs which, in some instances with modifications, directly or indirectly assisted in alleviating the impact of the droughts.

Amounts Used for Special Programs for Drought Relief, 1952 to 1954 Drought

	Fiscal Years	
	1953	1954
	1955	
	(Thru Nov. 26, 1954)	
	Millions of dollars	
Beef buying program:		
For domestic use (Section 32 funds)	--	a/ 84.3
For Foreign Operations Administration	--	a/ 9.4
Emergency feed program:		
Losses on sales of feed from CCC stocks (Pursuant to President's directive of November 16, 1953)	--	b/ 42.1
Freight, distribution, and other costs (Public Laws 115 and 175, 83rd Congress)	--	29.0
Value of dealers' certificates issued, redeemable in grain from CCC stocks (Section 301, Public Law 480, 83rd Congress)	--	--
Hay distribution program:		
Losses on sales of hay (Allocation from President's Disaster Relief Fund)	8.0	--
Advances to States for hay (Public Laws 115 and 175, 83rd Congress)	--	3.5
Allocations to States for emergency wind erosion control measures under the 1954 Agricultural Conservation Program (Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1954)	--	13.3
Emergency loans (Public Law 38, approved April 6, 1949, and Public Laws 115 and 175, 83rd Congress): d/	43.1	31.7
Production emergency	--	26.2
Economic emergency	--	35.2
Special livestock	--	11.8
Total, above items	51.1	274.7
		35.0

- a/ Represents expenditures from March 23 to December 16, 1953, when the program was terminated.
b/ Includes losses on sales in the fiscal year 1955 in two States where the program was conducted until July 15, 1954.
c/ Represents commitments for advances.
d/ Although these loans are not restricted to drought emergencies, about 85% of them were made in 18 States in which drought disaster areas have been declared.

December 6, 1954

